

Please find below, revised Utah State Parks news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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stateparks.utah.gov

#### YOUTH OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT EDUCATION COURSES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Salt Lake City-- In an effort to meet the growing demands for off-highway vehicle (OHV) and personal watercraft (PWC) youth education courses, Utah State Parks has made classes available online at [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov).

Cost for the OHV class is \$30 and covers ATVs, off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and side-by-side ATVs. The cost of the PWC course, which covers JetSki and SeaDoo-type boats is \$34.95, which includes a \$5 certification fee. Upon successful completion of the course, students print a temporary certificate valid for 60 days and later receive a permanent certificate by mail.

Students are strongly encouraged to thoroughly study all materials prior to taking the test. Students who do not pass the course, must pay a second registration fee and retake the test.

"Safety is our number one concern. We want to reduce the number of accidents by educating youth to operate ATVs and PWCs safely and emphasize the importance of wearing safety equipment, and following laws and rules," stated OHV/PWC Education Coordinator Ann Evans. "Online courses provide easier access to education courses and allow students to learn at their own pace."

Utahlaw requires youth eight to 16 to complete the Utah State Parks *Know Before You Go!* OHV Education Course before operating a machine on public lands, roads or trails. It is illegal for any child under age eight to operate an OHV on public land.

Utahyouth, 12 to 17 years of age, are required to complete and pass the Utah PWC Education Course in order to operate PWC (Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Sea-Doo) without an adult on board. Children who are younger than 12, may not operate a PWC without a responsible adult onboard.

Since the creation of the education courses, approximately 22,000 students have completed the PWC course and over 60,000 students have taken the OHV course.

For more information, visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov), call (800) OHV-RIDE or (800) RIDE PWC.

# # #

#### BOATERS REMINDED TO WEAR LIFE JACKETS

**Salt Lake City--** Utah State Parks and Recreation Boating Rangers strongly encourage the use of life jackets.

"Eleven Utahns lost their lives in boating related accidents so far this year. Seven of those would likely have survived if they had worn life jackets," stated Utah State Parks Boating Program Assistant Manager Chris Haller.

All vessels on Utah's lakes, reservoirs, and rivers must carry a wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person on board. Life jackets must be worn by those under age 13, anyone boating on a river, anyone on a personal watercraft (PWC), and anyone being towed behind a boat.

A vessel is any type of watercraft used as a means of transportation on water, which includes canoes, kayaks, float tubes, inner tubes, kick boats, rubber rafts and many inflatable toys.

"While Utah law requires children under 13 to wear a properly sized life jacket, it is a safe and smart practice for everyone to wear one," added Haller.

Utahand national boating accident statistics over the past five to six years indicate approximately 75 to 80 percent of the people who have drowned from a boating accident would have likely survived had they been doing one thing -- wearing a life jacket.

For additional safe boating tips go to [stateparks.utah.gov/boating](http://stateparks.utah.gov/boating) or call (801) 538-BOAT. Wear it Utah!

# # #

#### ROSSCREEKTRAILHEAD OPEN AT JORDANELLE STATE PARK

Heber – Ross Creek Trailhead at Jordanelle State Park, located off State Road 248 between Park City and Kamas, is open. Ross Creek Trailhead provides parking, trash receptacles, a vault restroom, hitching posts and non-motorized day-use access to Jordanelle Reservoir and the Perimeter Trail. Park access fees are \$7 per vehicle and Utah State Parks Annual Passes are accepted.

Utah State Parks continues work on the Perimeter Trail by marking sections of the trail that were washed away and working with the Bureau of Reclamation for approval of rerouting, then building and repairing sections of the trail system. Volunteers are needed to donate their time and resources for trail projects, such as removing vegetation. For additional information, please call (435) 649-9540.

# # #

#### UTAHSTATE PARK MUSEUM AT CENTER OF AWARD WINNING SCENIC BYWAY PROJECT

Vernal– Flaming Gorge-Uintas Scenic Byway's Uinta Fossil Journey film project at Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum received the 2009 Scenic Byway Award for Interpretation.

Utah State Parks Heritage Coordinator Karen Krieger accepted the award at a ceremony held August 24 during the National Scenic Byways 2009 Conference in Denver.

According to Krieger, Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum serves as the portal and orientation center for the Flaming Gorge-Uintas Scenic Byway.

"Visitors encounter educational, scientific and engaging experiences of the Uinta Mountain region through an onsite theater and this award-winning film," said Krieger. She added the project enhanced the museum's role with visitors and significantly expanded their experiences.

Sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO), the prestigious award recognizes eight projects of excellence from byway nominations across the country. Selection by a panel of byway community experts is based on four criteria: community involvement and public outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and, innovation.

"We hope these winning projects will inspire new efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities along America's Byways, distinctive routes designated by the National Scenic Byways Program," commented Michelle Johnson, Director of America's Byways Resource Center.

# # #

#### UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

September 25                                      Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab  
Guided Bike Ride: Join Ranger Tom Slagle on a bike ride along the park's new 4.2-mile bike trail with several stops along the way to talk about the many wonders of Dead Horse Point. The trail is rated as beginner, but please bring appropriate gear, including a mountain bike, helmet, gloves, sturdy shoes and water. (435) 259-2614

September 26                                      Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse  
Where the Buffalo Roam, Life on Antelope Island: Enjoy an informative lecture by historian, author and former ranch hand Max Harward at 2 p.m. at Fielding Garr Ranch. (801) 649-5742

September 26                                      Rock Cliff Nature Center/Jordanelle State Park - Francis  
Watershed Festival: Celebrate National Public Lands Day with park staff and Soldier Hollow Charter School. Learn where your watershed is, why it is important, and how to take care of it through fun interactive displays. Rock Cliff is located on the southeast side of Jordanelle Reservoir. (435) 782-3030

September 26                      and 27                      Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab  
Up Close and Personal: Join a park ranger at the overlook from 10 to 11 a.m. for a closer look at the world in and around Dead Horse Point. (435) 259-2614

September 26

Dead Horse Point State Park

Ancient Ways: Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 8 p.m. for a program on American Indian cultures who lived in canyon country thousands of years ago. Discover who these people were and how they were able to live in this harsh desert country. (435) 259-2614

September 27

Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab

Uranium - the Passionate Heart of the Earth: Uranium made the atomic bomb possible, but there is much more to this element. Discover how uranium is ultimately responsible for the stunning landscape surrounding Dead Horse Point State Park. Meet the park ranger at the visitor center amphitheater at 8 p.m. (435) 259-2614

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